Disappearance of boxes of Hazardous Wastes from Ports

†3768 : PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has ordered Government to submit a status report on the disappearance of imported boxes of hazardous wastes;

(b) if so, the report submitted by the Government to the court;

(c) whether it is also a fact that around 133 boxes of hazardous wastes such as dangerous oil, wastage of batteries and other items were imported into India, violating the international ban orders and these disappeared from ports on their arrival in India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for disappearance from the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In compliance with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government constituted an Inquiry Committee to verify the inventory and identify shortages, if any, with respect to quantities of Hazardous Wastes seized at Ports/Island Container Deports (ICDs)/ Container Freight Stations (CFSs). After detailed examination of the issues, the Committee submitted its report which was filed in the Supreme Court in August, 2002.

Out of the 158 waste oil containers seized at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, 25 containers were released after confirmation as furnace oil. Remaining 133 containers are lying in the port.

(d) Does not arise.

Problems facing Yamuna Action Plan

3769 : SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports "Yamuna plan is a maze of toilets" as appeared in media;

(b) what is plaguing Yamuna Action Plan and what is being done to streamline the process; and

(c) time by which things would be put in a proper perspective?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Under the Yamuna Action Plan Phase-I, among other works, about 960 community toilet complexes have been constructed in unsewered areas of Delhi. The total expenditure incurred on this project is Rs. 150 crore. About 70% of the toilet complexes are being used by the beneficiaries. However, about 30% of the toilet complexes have not been put to use due to problems of non-availability of electricity and groundwater and lack of users in some of the areas. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which is the implementing agency for this project has been asked to ensure full utilization of all the complexes by the end of April, 2003.

(b) and (c) Under the Yamuna Action Plan Phase-I, a total expenditure of Rs. 668 crore has been incurred on pollution abatement works in Haryana, Delhi and U.P. Major works implemented under the plan are :

*	Sewerage	—	170 kms.
*	Main Pumping Station	—	60 nos.
*	Sewage treatment plants	—	32 nos.(734 mld)
*	Community Toilets	—	1123 nos. (out of which 960 toilet complexes have been constructed in Delhi)

In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up the works for construction of sewage treatment plants at 17 locations in Delhi out of their own plan funds. Despite these works, the water quality of Yamuna has not shown appreciable improvement along the Delhi stretch due to the following reasons :

(i) As against the present sewage generation of 3300 million litres per day (mld), the installed sewage treatment capacity is 2300 mld. Thus, there is a gap of 1000 mld in the installed sewage treatment capacity.

(ii) Out of about 130 km. length of trunk sewer, about 90 km. length requires refurbishing and rehabilitation as the sewers are either silted up or settled. As a result, the installed capacity or sewage treatment plants is not fully utilized and untreated sewage is discharged in the river through various drains.

(iii) Out of total of 15 common effluent treatment plants to be constructed in 21 industrial estates, only 3 have been completed so far. The remaining ones are targeted for completion by December, 2003.

(iv) Lack of dilution capacity in the river particularly along Delhi.

The work of cleaning of Yamuna river specially in Delhi can be completed only after the installation of additional sewage treatment capacity of 1000 mld, refurbishment of defunct trunk sewers, completion of all the common effluent treatment plants and maximum use of treated sewage for horticulture/agriculture in the absence of dilution capacity in the river.

Polluted rivers of M.P., U.P. and Bihar

3770. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that most of our rivers passing through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are badly polluted;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Governments of these States are doing nothing to check the pollution of rivers; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in collaboration with the State Governments to solve the problem of pollution of rivers so that the ambitious plan of linking rivers would be beneficial for the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Most of the rivers passing through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are polluted.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) to cover pollution abatement works in 156 towns along polluted stretches of 30 rivers spread over 17 States. The projects under the schemes are implemented by the respective State Governments. The objective of NRCP is to improve the water quality of rivers by taking up the following pollution abatement works :